



KITSAP COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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For immediate release:
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Port Orchard 'teen dies in lake incident

Silverdale, Wash. -- A group of volunteer civilian divers, along with emergency rescue crews and sheriff's search and rescue coordinators, were part of an assembled team that worked together to locate the body of a young Port Orchard youth who died in the waters of Wildcat Lake, late yesterday afternoon.

The body of Trenton Morris, age 13, was found and recovered by divers at 7:10 p.m.

Sheriff's patrol deputies, together with engine units, medic units and a rescue boat from Central Kitsap Fire & Rescue, responded to private property in the 9100 block of Wildcat Lake, on the lake's southwest shore, following a 9-1-1 report concerning a 'teen missing in lake waters. The lake is located in Central Kitsap, west of Silverdale.

The initial Kitsap County Central Communications radio dispatch about the report was broadcast at 5:26 p.m.; CKF&R first responder units were on-scene within six minutes, followed by sheriff's deputies in 13 minutes.

A small party of family and friends were enjoying the late afternoon on the lake using a large inflatable (circular) raft, or "island" moored out from the shore. The 13 year-old was using a closed cell foam flotation device, commonly called a "noodle," to float in the water, near the raft, cooling off from the scorching summer heat. Reports indicate that he hadn't been in the water for very long.

According to witnesses, the victim mentioned that he was getting tired. The 'teen then became separated from his flotation device and slipped under the water. Members of the youth's party immediately attempted to find the boy while one left to call 9-1-1.

By happenstance of shift assignment, a patrol deputy and a traffic deputy, both holding collateral duty appointments as sheriff's search and rescue coordinators, were able to respond to the lake to initiate a search mission. A dive team was requested and a group of six divers (plus support personnel), from Underwater Search & Rescue Volunteers, were soon en route to the lake. Emergency crews enlisted the help of a number of nearby swimmers and boaters in searching for the youth until the dive team arrived.

The dive team entered the water at 6:57 p.m. Within 13 minutes they found the young man at the bottom of the lake, in about 20 feet of water, approximately 25 feet from the shoreline.

The body of Trenton Morris was transported by fire personnel back to a dock and turned over into the custody of the Kitsap County Coroner's Office. The coroner will make a determination as to the cause and manner of death.

The young man's family was notified shortly after his body was located and recovered.

As sheriff's detective was assigned to this incident and responded to the scene. An investigation has been started. The sheriff's office will await the findings of the coroner's office before closing its investigation. At this point, however, detectives are handling this investigation as an accidental death and do not believe that criminal activity was involved.

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